

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 15-1021V

Filed: April 20, 2016

Unpublished

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CHRISTINA L. MURRAY,

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Petitioner,

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V.  
SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

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Attorneys' Fees and Costs;  
Special Processing Unit ("SPU")

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Respondent.

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*Stephen Joseph Mathieu, Stephen J. Mathieu Attorney, Beaverton, OR, for petitioner.  
Justine Elizabeth Walters, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

## DECISION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS<sup>1</sup>

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On September 14, 2015, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, et seq.,<sup>2</sup> (the "Vaccine Act"). Petitioner alleged that she developed a rotator cuff tear and other shoulder injuries as a result of receiving a seasonal influenza ("flu") vaccine on September 19, 2013. On February 24, 2016, the undersigned issued a decision awarding compensation to petitioner based on respondent's proffer. (ECF No. 21).

On April 19, 2016, petitioner filed a motion for attorneys' fees and costs. (ECF No. 25). Petitioner requests attorneys' fees in the amount of \$9,620.00 and attorneys' costs in the amount of \$534.71 for a total amount of \$10,154.71. *Id.* at 1.

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all "§" references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

In compliance with General Order #9, petitioner has filed a signed statement indicating that he incurred no out-of-pocket expenses. (ECF No. 26).

On April 19, 2016, respondent's counsel indicated by e-mail correspondence that respondent has no objection to petitioner's motion. (Informal Communication, dated April 20, 2016).

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. § 15(e). Based on the reasonableness of petitioner's request and the lack of opposition from respondent, the undersigned **GRANTS** petitioner's motion for attorneys' fees and costs.

**Accordingly, the undersigned awards the total of \$10,154.71<sup>3</sup> as a lump sum in the form of a check jointly payable to petitioner and petitioner's counsel Stephen Joseph Mathieu.**

The clerk of the court shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.<sup>4</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/Nora Beth Dorsey  
Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, § 15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. See generally *Beck v. Sec'y of Health & Human Servs.*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.